

Grant Number - 1R13FD003952-01

**New Mexico Food Protection Task Force Meeting and Conference  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
November 2011**

Bobby Ann Dictson, Conference Director  
Jeff M. Witte, Principle Investigator/Program Director  
New Mexico Department of Agriculture and the  
Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center

**7. Participant List (including organizational affiliations by attendee)**

<b>New Mexico Food Protection Alliance Conference</b>			
<b>November 17-18, 2010</b>			
<b>Sheraton Uptown Hotel - Albuquerque, NM</b>			
<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Title</b>
Abreu	Rick	State of New Mexico	Environmental Specialist
Adams-Cameron	Meg	NM Department of Health	Epidemiologist
Armenta	Justin	NMDA	Inspector
Barragan	Manuell	NMEVN	Environmental Scientist
Beardsley	William	City of Santa Fe	Emergency Preparedness
Blankman	Ilana	Farm to Table	Value Chain Specialist
Boden	William	U. S. FDA	Emergency Response Coordinator
Carpenter	Deborah	NM Environment Dept.	Environmental Specialist
Casale	Gloria	SNL	Analyst
Chavez	William	State Of NM EHD	Area Manager
Colson	Todd	377 MDG	Public Health Lead

Conrad	Stephen	Sandia National Labs	NISAC Lead For Ag & Food
Conwell	Douglas	Santa Fe Public Schools	Specialist
Cook	Leisa	Indian Health Service	Director, Division of Environmental Health Services
Cox	Dustin	NMDA	Inspector
Culbertson	Myles	NM Livestock Board	Director
Darden	Tim	New Mexico Department of Agriculture	Assistant Division Director
Dictson	Bobby Ann	NMSU - Cooperative Extension Service	Specialist
Dictson	Billy	NMSU College of ACES	Director, Office of Biosecurity
Elsworth	Anthony	USAO	Intel Specialist
Ettestad	Paul	NMDOH	State Public Health Veterinarian
Fair	Marie	-	-
Ferguson	Greg	NMDA	Inspector IV
Ferreira	Jan	Bueno Foods	Project Analyst
Flores	Nancy	NMSU - CES	
Fogleman	Bill	Grit, Inc.	Consultant
Foote	Matt	NMDHSEM	Intel Analyst
Ford	Jerry	New Mexico Environmental Health Department	Environmental Scientist/Specialist
Gerhardt	Johnathan	NMED	Food Specialist
Gonzales	Marisol	Cervantes Food Products, Inc	Biologist
Grabowski	Debra	Indian Health Service	Environmental Health Officer
Grenfell	Luis E. Guzman	Fiesta Canning Company	Quality Assurance Manager
Higgins	Elizabeth	NMDA	Compliance Specialist

Higgins	Florence	Higgins Environmental Solutions	CEO
Holm	Rudy	DHS	PSA
Ingram	Matthew	New Mexico Environment Department	Environmental Scientist
Italiano	Robert	New Mexico Environment Department	District Manager
Jaquez	Judi	Santa Fe Public Schools	Director
Jimenez	Del	NMSU -CES	
Johns	Melissa	NM EHD	Environmental Scientist
Jungk	Jessica	New Mexico DOH	Epidemiologist
Kaplan	Paul	Sandia National Laboratories	Infrastructure Ecologist
Koukel	Sonja	Cooperative Extension Service	Health Specialist
Krause	Scott	FDA	
Krusemark	Katie	Los Alamos National Laboratory	Researcher
Lahar	Daniel	FDA	Resident in Charge
Leskowsky	Robert	USDA	Compliance Investigator
Lobaugh	Michael	Old Windmill Dairy	Co-owner
Lundstrom	Charles	NMED	Bureau Chief
Master	Sharon	Scientific Laboratory Division	Biological Sciences Bureau Chief
Mills	Jeffrey	NM Environment Dept	Staff Manager
Montano	Nick	NMPSIA	Consultant
Nevarez	Marci	NMED	Food Specialist

Orris	Danny	New Mexico Department of Agriculture	Inspector II
Parker	Jennifer	Border Foods	
Pohl	Phil	Sandia National Labs	Technical Staff
Purukaba	Eric	Bueno Foods	
Rayburn	Jackie	Private	Auditor
Raymond	David	FBI	WMD Coordinator
Reeb	Alf	NMDA	Division Director
Reyes	Patti	EHD	Environmental Scientist
Rhoderick	John	New Mexico Environment Dept.	Environmental Scientist/ Specialist
Romero	Carlos	NMED	Director
Romero	Jerome	NM	Environmentalist
Roy	Anita	NMED	District II Food Specialist
Ruvalcaba	Eric	Bueno Foods	Quality Assurance Manager
Sewell	Mack	New Mexico Dept of Health	State Epidemiologist
Silver	Robert	NMSU	Assoc. Director
Slater	Brad	Southwest Cheese Company	Quality Assurance Director
Smelser	Chad	Epidemiology And Response Division	Medical Epidemiologist
Sproat	Mark	NMED	Specialist
Tafoya	Lucas	Bernalillo County	Compliance Manager
Taylor	Ronald (Ron)	NM Environment Dept.	Food Specialist
Taylor	Robert	SNL	Senior Member Of Technical Staff
Teitell	Paul	U. S. FDA	Director Investigations

Unis	Carl	Sandia National Labs	Member of the Technical Staff
Vigil	Martin	Santa Fe County	Director
Warshawer	Steve	Mt Agricultural Enterprises	...
Weddington	Anna	Sandia National Labs	GIS Analyst
Wilson	Andrew	NMED	Food Specialist
Witte	Jeff	NMSU	Director Ag Biosecurity
Ziehl	Kristy	EHD	Environmentalist

<b>HHS/FDA/OR/DFSR Progress Report</b>			1. Date submitted <b>May 31, 2011</b>
2. Grant No. <b>1R13FD003952-01</b>	3. Project Period <b>08/01/2010 to 07/31/2015</b>	4. Budget Period <b>08/01/2010 to 07/31/2011</b>	5. Dates covered by this report <b>08/01/2010 to May 31, 2011</b>
6. Project Title: <b>New Mexico Food Protection Task Force, Meeting and Conference</b>			
7. Grantee Name and Address New Mexico State University Nita Fernandez Office of Grants and Contracts 1050 Stewart Street Suite E1200 Las Cruces, NM 88007		8. P.I Name, phone and e-mail Jeff Witte (575) 646-5063 jwitte@nmsu.edu	

## 1. General Progress on Grant Project

### a. Awareness/Prevention/Intervention/Response Activities

### b. Conference outcomes/summaries/accomplishments (please include a final agenda from the conference)

The New Mexico Food Protection Alliance formed in July 2010 due to the state receiving a grant from the FDA to create a working group and host a conference with topics related to food defense and security. The New Mexico Department of Agriculture, through New Mexico State University is the primary administrator of the grant and was responsible for organizing the work group and conference arrangements. Upon notification of receiving the grant, a conference call was scheduled to begin the process of creating the task force (Alliance) in New Mexico. Every

party contacted was enthusiastic about the proposal. A planning meeting was held on August 24, 2010 to set the format for the conference and conference dates. The alliance has also held two additional training programs in the area of food safety and defense. These have been well attended and have provided additional opportunities for the agencies involved in food safety and defense to interact with each other and their industry partners. The conference was scheduled for November 2010. Below is a synopsis of the conference and the final agenda.

### **New Mexico Food Protection Alliance SYNOPSIS**

The first New Mexico Food Protection Alliance Conference was held on November 17 and 18, 2010 in Albuquerque New Mexico. The Conference brought together over 100 professionals representing the public and private sector from across New Mexico including senior officials from the USDA and FDA.

#### **Synopsis**

The first Conference was a venue for communication and information exchange on food safety issues in New Mexico for the purpose of creating a working integrated food safety system. The Conference achieved several important goals. First attendees learned about the roles of regulatory agencies involved in all aspects of food safety and defense. Presentations that were made included those by FDA, USDA, the Indian Health Service, City and State Health Departments. The Conference gave attendees a chance to meet informally to interact and learn more about each other. Personal interaction is important in order to organize a response quickly should an incident ever occur in New Mexico. The Conference also achieved the beginnings of new working partnerships between regulatory agencies and the private sector.

The Conference also gave attendees the opportunity to learn more about food safety and defense program activities being done by support organizations within New Mexico such as the national laboratories, the FBI, State and Federal Departments of Homeland Security, and universities. Some of the programs were presented in the Tools and Techniques break session.

#### **Break Out Sessions**

Two Break Out Sessions were held each day of the conference. The Tools and Techniques Session highlighted two technology based risk assessment tools. The CARVER Food Defense Software Tool developed by Sandia National Laboratories. This can be used as a risk assessment tool to evaluate the vulnerability of facilities to intentional harm. PREDICT is a tool developed by a team led by New Mexico State University for FDA that is now being used to screen all imported goods that are regulated by the FDA. This break out session also included presentations about risk assessment support available to the private sector from the Federal Homeland Security Department, intelligence gathering performed by the Fusion Center of the NMDHSEM and food protection program assistance offered by the USDA-FSIS.

The Policy Break Out Session was a panel discussion by representatives of Bernalillo County, USDA, City of Albuquerque, NMED, and NMDA that identified current events, concerns and programmatic activities related to food safety and defense that take place across the state of New Mexico. Many suggestions that were offered by the panel and attendees of the session should be included in a food safety system for the state.

## **Case Studies**

The Directors of Investigation from the FDA District Offices in San Francisco and Denver presented case studies of two food borne illness outbreak investigations. One was the Salmonella St Paul outbreak in 2008 in peppers and tomatoes that affected southern New Mexico. The other was a case study of a Salmonella Montevideo outbreak associated with ground pepper and hydrolyzed vegetable protein. The FDA officials were candid in their assessment of what went well during each investigation and what things did not go well. Not surprising, pre-planning and good communication were keys to the events that were successful. The Alliance can use the lessons learned from these outbreaks to develop an integrated response plan for New Mexico.

## **FBI Briefing on AgroTerrorism**

The conference also included a one hour presentation by the FBI about cases of agro terrorism and the significant preparations, outreach and training that the Bureau has conducted since 9-11.

## **Next Steps**

The last afternoon of the Conference was spent summarizing what attendees considered the next steps for the Alliance to be. These are bulleted below as possible objectives.

- There was a consensus that continuing the Alliance to address food safety and defense matters in New Mexico in an integrated fashion would be beneficial to all.
- Implementing a training program and a series of response exercises would help participants gain experience and become better acquainted with the investigation process if a food borne illness outbreak and investigation occurs. Gaps in knowledge would be identified and filled.
- A Web Portal to information on food safety and defense topics would be important to Alliance members. This would include such things as current information on food safety and defense activities occurring nationwide.
- A contact list for Alliance members would be useful.

The following are possible near term objectives derived from the Policy Break Out session that could be addressed by the Alliance.

- Food safety and defense habits should be part of everyone's basic toolbox of life to live a healthy lifestyle. Investigate developing Public Service Announcements (PSA) to encourage healthy food safety habits at home.
- Instill healthy habits at a younger age within the schools. This should lead to more knowledgeable citizens by including information about obesity, food sanitation and contamination problems at home
- Use kids in the PSA's (kids listen to kids)
- Provide and distribute food safety and defense materials through the New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service
- Obtain food safety posters from USDA - FSIS and distribute them
- Food Safety Week is the week of September 3. Develop statewide education on food safety topics in New Mexico for that week. Also include food safety and defense as a subject during the National Ag Week. Similarly, there is a Water Fair at the Convention Center in Albuquerque that could be a venue for the Alliance.

- An organizational chart of the New Mexico Department of Health of who to contact for food safety and other health related subjects is needed. This could be an item for the Web Portal.
- Present a unified front for topics on the docket related to food safety and defense at the 2011 State Legislature in order to get some food safety issues passed.
- Encourage food service worker training by the NM Restaurant Association
- Educate law makers in simple terms on the issues of food safety and food defense so that they will enact better laws.
- Involve industry in the Alliance and the next conference should focus on industry success in food safety and defense.

## **New Mexico Food Protection Alliance Conference**

### **Agenda November 17, 2010**

10:00 – 10:15 Welcome – Jeff Witte, Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center

10:15 – 12:00 Agency Introductions - *What is our Role in Food Safety* – Billy Dictson,  
SWBFSDC - Moderator

New Mexico Environment Department – Carlos Romero  
New Mexico Department of Agriculture – Alfred Reeb and Tim Darden  
New Mexico Livestock Board -  
Bernalillo County Health – Lucas Tafoya  
Indian Health Services – Leisa Cook  
City of Albuquerque – Judy Espinosa  
Food and Drug Administration -  
USDA Food Safety Inspection Service – Robert Leskowsky  
Department of Defense – Todd Colson, Kirtland AFB  
New Mexico Department of Health – Mack Sewell

#### Support Agencies –

NMSU Cooperative Extension Service - Nancy Flores & Sonja Koukel  
Southwest Border Food Safety & Defense Center - Billy Dictson  
US Department of Homeland Security – Rudy Holm, Protective Security Advisor  
Federal Bureau of Investigation – S.A. Dave Raymond  
Sandia National Labs – Phil Pohl  
NM Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management – Matt Foote

12:00 – 1:30 Working Lunch: FDA and FSIS provide agency updates  
Scott Krause, Retail Food Specialist, FDA  
Anna Gallegos, Deputy District Manager



- 1:30 – 3:00 Two Case Studies: what went right and what went wrong  
Salmonella St. Paul Outbreak – The New Mexico Experience – Jessica Jungk  
Tomato/Serrano/Jalapeño – FDA perspective – Paul Teitell, Director of Investigations, Denver District Office
- 3:00 – 3:30 Break
- 3:30 – 5:30 Breakout Session 1 - Tools and Techniques  
Call to Order & Introductions by Leisa Cook (3 minutes)  
USDA-FSIS Food Protection by Robert Leskowsky of USDA (30 minutes)  
NMSU on FDA’s “PREDICT” Tool by Bob Silver of NMSU (30 minutes)  
CARVER Food Defense Software Tool by Phil Pohl of Sandia Labs (30 minutes)  
Break (5 minutes stretch break)  
Resources by Rudy Holm, US Department of Homeland Security (10 minutes)  
Resources by Matt Foote, NMDHSEM Fusion Center (10 minutes)  
Q&A (7 minutes)

Breakout Session 2 – Policy

Panel Discussion:

Lucas Tafoya	County of Bernalillo
Robert Leskowsky	USDA
Judy Espinosa	City of Albuquerque
Bill Chavez	NMED
Alf Reeb	Milk Regulatory for the state

- 6:00 – 7:00 Networking Social – New Mexico Products

**November 18, 2010**

- 8:00 – 8:10 **Plenary Session** - Purpose of an Integrated Food Response Alliance – Jeff Witte
- 8:10 – 8:30 Food Vulnerability Assessments – Todd Colson, Food Safety Office, Kirtland AFB
- 8:30 – 10:00 Two Case Studies: What Went Right and What Went Wrong  
Hydrolyzed Vegetable Protein – Luis Solorzano, Director of Investigations San Francisco District Office  
A Tale of Two Outbreaks – Meg Adams-Cameron
- 10:00 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 12:00 Breakout Session 1 - Tools and Techniques

Call to Order & Introductions by Leisa Cook (3 minutes)  
USDA-FSIS Food Protection by Robert Leskowsky of USDA  
(30 minutes)  
NMSU on FDA's "PREDICT" Tool by Bob Silver of NMSU  
(30 minutes)  
CARVER Food Defense Software Tool by Phil Pohl of Sandia Labs  
(30 minutes)  
Break (5 min. stretch break)  
Resources by Rudy Holm, US Department of Homeland Security  
(10 minutes)  
Resources by Matt Foote, NMDHSEM Fusion Center (10 minutes)  
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Panel Discussion:  
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Robert Leskowsky     USDA  
Judy Espinosa         City of Albuquerque  
Bill Chavez            NMED  
Alf Reeb                Milk Regulatory for the state

12:00 to 1:00 Working Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 Reporting – Bob Silver, moderator

2:00 – 3:00 Big Bang Wrap-up - Agro-terrorism – S. A. David Raymond, FBI

3:00 Closing Comments and next steps

**2. Point of Contact and Project Key Personnel**

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3. **Pending issues/concerns:** All funds from the first year of the grant have been expended. Planning efforts are underway for the second conference.

4. **Funding Expended and Remaining as of date of this report (provide detailed list of funds expended)**

2011 Conference Plans

The New Mexico Food Protection Alliance work group has scheduled a planning meeting June 1, 2011 to narrow the conference topics and begin identifying speakers. The preliminary

proposal is to conduct the conference in November, 2011. General topics which have been proposed include:

1. Formation of County Food Protection Alliance Work Groups
2. Industry initiatives to address Food Safety Act Implementation
3. Update from FDA on Food Safety Act
4. Success Stories in Food Safety
5. New Challenges in Agroterrorism
6. Coordination in Preparedness and Response to Food Borne Outbreaks
7. Food handler safety training and annual certification (restaurants, school cafeterias, etc.)
8. Trace back capability: what is potentially cooking on the national front (FDA, USDA-FSIS)
9. Annual outbreak investigation training for all staff involved from various agencies
10. Education/communication with the public: what do we do; what could/should we do
11. FDA update on food safety legislation and regulation
12. USDA FSIS update on food safety legislation and regulation
13. CARVER + Shock Assessment tool
14. Training opportunities for local, state, tribal, federal and the private sector
15. Capacity and resource needs
16. Information sharing and data collection
17. Uniform regulatory standards
18. Communications and education
19. State/local laboratory operations and coordination
20. Adoption and implementation of the FDA Food Code and other food protection regulations
21. Uniform standards for food-borne illness and outbreak reporting investigation and response
22. Food defense activities and coordination

The conference plan is to conduct a meeting beginning at 1:00 PM on day one and concluding at 12:00 noon on day two. This will allow participants the opportunity to travel from across the state and limit travel and meal expenses for the conference, while still allowing participants with appropriate opportunities to network with each other.